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# Performing Blackness: Enactments of African-American Modernism

*Kimberley W. Benston*

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**Kimberley W. Benston : Performing Blackness: Enactments of African-American Modernism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Performing Blackness: Enactments of African-American Modernism:

Performing Blackness offers a challenging interpretation of black cultural expression since the Black Arts Movement

of the 1960s. Exploring drama, music, poetry, sermons, and criticism, Benston offers an exciting meditation on modern black performance's role in realising African-American aspirations for autonomy and authority. Artists covered include: \* John Coltrane\* Ntozake Shange \* Ed Bullins \* Amiri Baraka \* Adrienne Kennedy \* Michael Harper. *Performing Blackness* is an exciting contribution to the ongoing debate about the vitality and importance of black culture.

...[Benston] doesn't ignore the women of the movement. He provides piercing insights into the work of Shange and Kennedy. This is wide-ranging fare, spanning theatre, music, sermons, poetry, autobiography, and criticism..About the AuthorKimberley Benston is Kenan Professor of English at Haverford College. He is the author of *Baraka: The Renegade and the Mask* and editor of *Speaking of You: The Vision of Ralph Ellison*.